

**I claim:**

1. A method of replacing a spool cover attached to a spool casing of a laser toner hopper, said spool cover at least partially covering seal sensing contacts overlapping an electrical trace, the method comprising:

separating the spool cover from the spool casing;

replacing the electrical trace with a new electrical trace;

attaching at least one pad to a bottom surface of the spool cover; and

replacing the spool cover on the spool casing such that the at least one pad forces the seal sensing contacts to come in contact with the electrical trace.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one pad is non-conductive.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one pad is felt, rubber or plastic.

4. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

attaching the spool cover to the spool casing.

5. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

sliding a spool cover clip over a portion of the spool cover and a portion of the spool casing, said spool cover clip fixedly engaging the spool cover to the spool casing.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein a front portion of the spool cover clip includes an opening wider than an opening of a rear portion of the spool cover clip.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the wider opening of the front portion of the spool cover clip guides the spool cover clip over the portion of the spool cover and the portion of the spool casing.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the spool casing is attached to a toner hopper having a toner hopper sealing surface, and wherein replacing the electrical trace with the new electrical trace further comprises:

attaching a new seal assembly to the toner hopper sealing surface, said seal assembly comprising the new electrical trace.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the seal assembly further comprises:

a gasket; and

a seal disposed between the gasket and the toner hopper sealing surface.

10. A toner hopper comprising:

a toner hopper body for storing toner, said toner hopper body including a toner hopper discharge opening surrounded by a toner hopper sealing surface;

a spool casing attached to the toner hopper body;

a seal sensing electrical trace disposed substantially adjacent to the spool casing on the toner hopper sealing surface;

seal sensing contacts overlapping the seal sensing electrical trace;

a spool cover attached to the spool casing by a spool cover clip; and

at least one pad disposed between a bottom surface of the spool cover and the seal sensing contacts, said at least one member positioned to press the seal sensing contacts into contact with the seal sensing electrical trace.

11. The toner hopper of claim 10 wherein the at least one pad is non-conductive.

12. The toner hopper of claim 10 wherein the at least one pad comprises felt.

13. The toner hopper of claim 10 wherein the at least one pad comprises rubber.

14. The toner hopper of claim 10 wherein the at least one pad comprises plastic.

15. The toner hopper of claim 10 wherein a front portion of the spool cover clip includes an opening wider than an opening of a rear portion of the spool cover clip.

16. The toner hopper of claim 10 further comprising a seal assembly attached to the toner hopper sealing surface.

17. The toner hopper of claim 16 wherein the seal assembly comprises the seal sensing electrical trace.

18. The toner hopper of claim 17 wherein the seal assembly further comprises a seal disposed between a gasket and the toner hopper sealing surface.

19. The toner hopper of claim 18 wherein the seal assembly further comprises an adhesive layer securing the seal assembly to the toner hopper sealing surface, said adhesive layer disposed between the seal and the toner hopper sealing surface.

20. A method of replacing a spool cover attached to a spool casing of a laser toner hopper, said spool cover at least partially covering seal sensing contacts overlapping an electrical trace, the method comprising:

separating the spool cover from the spool casing;

replacing the electrical trace with a new electrical trace;

placing at least one pad over the seal sensing contacts; and

replacing the spool cover on the spool casing such that a bottom surface of the spool cover engages the at least one pad to force the seal sensing contacts to come in contact with the electrical trace.